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Book Notices.

The Life of Our Lord.

The Life of Our Lord upon the Earth, considered in its Historical, Chronological and Geographical Relations. By Samuel J. Andrews, D. D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1891. Pp. xxvii, 651. Price, \$2.50.

This is a new and thoroughly revised edition of a work published some thirty years ago. During the past generation it has ranked as one of the best of the many lives of Christ. The original aim of the author was to deal only with the external circumstances and events of Jesus' earthly career—the history, chronology and geography of the life, leaving undiscussed all questions which relate to authorship, sources and character of the documentary accounts, the relation of the Gospels to each other, archæology, verbal criticism, and the interpretation of the Lord's discourses and parables. This primal plan was carefully retained in the revision, so that the distinctive character of the work has not been altered. But the whole text has been rewritten, and improvements and extensions have been freely made. The knowledge acquired by the past thirty years has been introduced, bringing the work down to the present. Reference is made to nearly eighty new and important works upon the subject which have been issued during the time since the first edition. There are new and good maps, a fair general index, an outline harmony and chronological index of high value, a table of Scripture references, and an appendix which catalogues the miracles of the Gospels. One conspicuous merit of the edition is the throwing of the more detailed and technical discussions into smaller type than the body text, so that the general reader is largely relieved from the disputations which are necessary in such a work. Dr. Andrews has greatly improved the work for present and wide-spread use, which it will surely and deservedly receive.

The Apocalypse.

The Apocalypse: Its Structure and Primary Predictions. By David Brown, D. D. New York: Christian Literature Company. 1891. Pp. xi, 224. Price, \$1.25.

The author presents for his book a claim unnecessarily modest. The work was a growth rather than the product of a carefully projected and elaborated plan, and yet it covers the ground very well. There is quite a lengthy introduction, in which the author is found to be John, the date is placed in the reign of Domitian (quite independently of the fact that the present disposition is toward the early date—68 circ.), and the design of the writing set forth. Dr. Brown's purpose was apparently to oppose the ethical or spiritual view of Revelation, which denies its predictive character as regards detailed reference to future events; he holds it to be predictive, and even points to certain events as fulfilments of these predictions. The Second Advent is regarded as post-millennial (the position taken by the author fifty years ago in a work on that subject), but it is stated that this matter is not distinctly referred to in the strictly prophetic part of the Apocalypse. The artistic structure of the book

is maintained, the author recognizing the part of chorus or song in the arrangement of the material. In the present wide divergence of views and teachings as regards the method of interpretation to be applied to the Revelation, this book sets forth in a plain, forcible style one of the more important of the varying theories, and will doubtless prove influential.

The Writers of the New Testament.

The Writers of the New Testament: Their Style and Characteristics. By the late Rev. Wm. H. Simcox, M. A. New York: Thos. Whittaker. 1891. Pp. viii, 190. Price, 75 cts.

This is the second part of a work on the Language of the New Testament, the first volume of which was issued some little time ago. There the author endeavored to show what the New Testament writers had in common, and how they were as a body marked off from all other classes of writers. But while it is true that they do form a type diverging more or less from the established style of their contemporaries and predecessors, it is yet equally true that each of the New Testament writers has a style, manner and vocabulary of his own. It is the object of this second volume to describe the individual literary characteristics of each New Testament author. This is done with great care and skill, so that the work becomes at once most interesting, suggestive and valuable. Appendices are added with the aim of bringing out something of the affinities of vocabulary between the different groups of writers, and to illustrate a little in detail the differences between New Testament Greek and the literary Greek of the post-Alexandrian period.

Gideon and the Judges, Ezra and Nehemiah.

Gideon and the Judges: a Study, Historical and Practical. [Men of the Bible Series.] By Rev. Jno. Marshall Lang, D. D. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. 1891. Pp. xii, 201. Price, \$1.00.

Ezra and Nehemiah: Their Lives and Times. [Men of the Bible Series.] By Geo. Rawlinson, M. A., F. R. G. S. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. 1891. Pp. x, 182. Price, \$1.00.

This series of biblical biographies has been uniformly very high in scholarship and literary ability. The several volumes are among the best of current commentaries, being well adapted to general use, and yet they are not superficial. The authors are all English scholars of the progressive orthodox school. The acquisitions of critical and archæological study are presented, and yet the main purpose is to reproduce effectively these Bible characters and the times in which they lived and worked. The side lights thrown upon our Old Testament history from that of parallel nations, the records of which are just now being obtained, enable the authors to reconstruct and expand the narrative which the biblical account has only outlined or partially given.

Our Sixty-Six Sacred Books.

Our Sixty-Six Sacred Books: How they came to Us, and What they are. By Edwin W. Rice, D. D. Philadelphia: American S. S. Union. 1891. Pp. 133. Price, 40 cts.

In response to a definite need, this little volume was prepared to tell, in an interesting and generally intelligent manner, about the origin, authorship, preservation, character and divine authority of the Christian Scriptures. The rather unexpected method of beginning at the present and working backward in time, was adopted. The Anglo-American and King James' versions are